

# Review of Bigger Events of the Year at Home and Abroad

## The Year at Home

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.

SOME one has said, "Happy is the land that has no history." Voltaire put it, "History is but a picture of crimes and misfortunes." Measured by this standard, America has enjoyed a fairly happy year. Not but what we have made history, but that it has not been of so volcanic a character as that of some of our neighbors. Nations are like individuals. The most virtuous men and women frequently lead uneventful lives, while the greatest rakes may have the largest number of adventures.

With most nations 1911 has been a history making year, but with us it has been fairly comfortable and well behaved. We have had no wars and leaving out Mexico and Richmond Pearson Hobson, no rumors of wars. We have passed through no elections of great importance, no serious bank

measure adopted obstructive tactics, finally forcing the dissolution of parliament and an appeal to the people. In the ensuing campaign the cry was raised that reciprocity was an entering wedge for the annexation of Canada by the United States, and the Liberal party, that had championed the measure, was decisively defeated.

The special session of the American congress did not stop with reciprocity, but proceeded to revise several schedules of the Payne-Aldrich tariff law. The measures passed were one revising the wool schedule, another revising the cotton schedule and a third known as the farmers' free list bill, which sought to make up for some of the inequalities claimed to exist in the reciprocity measure. All three of these bills were vetoed by President Taft.

The direct election of senators was an issue in both congresses, the con-

Henry L. Stimson, the recognition of the republic of Portugal, the signing of the arbitration treaties, the delay to ratify them in the senate and the president's 15,000 mile tour to advocate them and his other policies and the review by the president of more than 100 warships in the North river.

In aviation the most notable feat was the flight from New York to Los Angeles of C. P. Rodgers. Orrville Wright contrived a glider that remained aloft without power ten minutes. Harry N. Atwood flew from Boston to Washington and afterward from St. Louis to New York. Eugene B. Ely skiplaned from the California coast to the deck of a battleship and back again. J. A. D. McCurdy went over the water from Key West to within ten miles of Havana. Cromwell Dixon flew over the Rocky mountains.

In the world of sports the American league baseball pennant was won by the Philadelphia Athletics and the National league pennant by the New York Giants. The subsequent struggle between these two teams was attended by the greatest crowds ever attracted by the game in America. Philadelphia won. Princeton defeated

other for fifteen years. Other arrests were threatened.

There were only the usual number of disasters, among which may be mentioned the eruption of Mount Taal and a resultant tidal wave that destroyed several villages and many lives in the Philippines; the burning of the state capitol at Jefferson City, Mo.; two great mine disasters at Throop, Pa., and in the Banner mines in Alabama; the destruction by fire of Dreamland, Coney Island, and the wiping out of Austin, Pa., by the breaking of a dam.

### The Year's Dead.

Among the year's noted dead were Admirals Winfield Scott Schley, Charles S. Sperry and John C. Fremont, son of the "Pathfinder." Senators William P. Frye and Stephen B. Elkins; Joseph Pulitzer, the famous editor; Tom L. Johnson, single taxer and reform mayor; Justice John M. Harlan; Denman Thompson and Kyrle Bellew, actors; Edwin A. Abbey, Fred P. Vinton and Howard Pyle, artists; Paul Morton, David Graham Phillips, who was assassinated; Dr. Edward G. Janeway; Generals A. S. Webb, H. S. Hawkins, R. R. Brinkerhoff, B. H. Clerson, George W. Gordon and Charles F. Manderson and Colonel J. J. McCook of civil war fame; Sam Walter Foss, George Cary Eggleston, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, W. S. Gilbert, Eugene F. Ware, Elizabeth Akers Allen, Charles Rattell Loomis and R. K. Mankittrick, authors; Cromwell Dixon and Eugene B. Ely, aviators; Colonel C. P. Lincoln, cousin of Abraham Lincoln; Caspar Purdon Clarke, art director; Otto Ringling of circus fame, Mrs. Winfield Scott Hancock, W. B. Baker, father of rural free delivery; Carrie Nation, J. Proctor Knott, Edward M. Shepard, John W. Gates, Gamaliel Bradford and Ida Lewis, the Newport heroine.

## The Year Abroad

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.

TWO great world movements were observable in 1911, and they are so closely related as to be practically one. The first was the trend toward liberty and democracy, the other toward the rule of the cross over the crescent. As evidences of the first the Chinese and Mexican revolutions are conspicuous, of the second the absorption of Morocco and Tripoli by Christian powers and the foreshadowed capitulation of Persia to Russia and England.

From these aspects it was a notable year. The Chinese rebellion alone would make it historic. This the oldest kingdom on earth, older than Greece and Rome, contemporary of ancient Egypt and Babylon, is now moving mightily by modern forces and seems about to establish a republic after the model of the United States. That must make old Father Time rub his eyes.

It was not till October that the revolution broke out at Wuchang. Then, leaping across the river to Hankow, it swiftly spread to all southern and central China. Before the end of the year the great cities of Shanghai, Canton and Nanking, the ancient capital, had successively fallen. Primarily the revolt was against the Manchus, a comparative handful of whom had ruled China for nearly 300 years, but through it all moved a militant and determined republicanism.

Shortly after the outbreak of the insurrection the new national assembly of China met and demanded sweeping reforms. These the throne granted, assenting to an immediate constitution

ernment, followed speedily by the declaration of war on Sept. 20. Outside of the bombardment of a few Turkish ports about the northern shore of the Mediterranean, the fighting has been confined to Tripoli. An Italian fleet conveying troops bombarded the city of Tripoli, which capitulated after a feeble resistance. Other ports fell in the same fashion.

Aeroplanes have played a considerable part in the Italian campaign, reconnoitering the positions of the enemy, directing the movements of the land troops and in one instance dropping bombs into the Turkish camps.

### A Yankee in the Orient.

An American citizen played the star part in the affair between Russia and Persia. His name is William Morgan Shuster, and he is acting Persian treasurer general. The secret of the trouble is that Russia wants north Persia and England wants south Persia. Since the expulsion of the former shah the Persians have been stirred by a movement toward nationalism and applied to this country for a man to look after their finances. Mr. Shuster was sent and has succeeded not only in the task undertaken, but has become in some sense a leader of the Persians in their effort to build a nation on the new constitutional lines. Russia backed the former shah in an attempt to recover his throne and when this failed came out into the open and sent troops into Persia, demanding that Mr. Shuster be expelled.

The United States and other nations were appealed to by the Persians, but our own government declined to inter-

ference, by the way—resulting in flight of President Simon and the election to the presidency of Gen. Ecomte, the revolutionary leader. In England the long struggle of the restriction of the veto power the house of lords resulted in a complete victory for the commons and the Liberal party, the lords receding in the face of the threatened creation of 500 new peers. This was universally regarded as paving the way to Irish home rule.

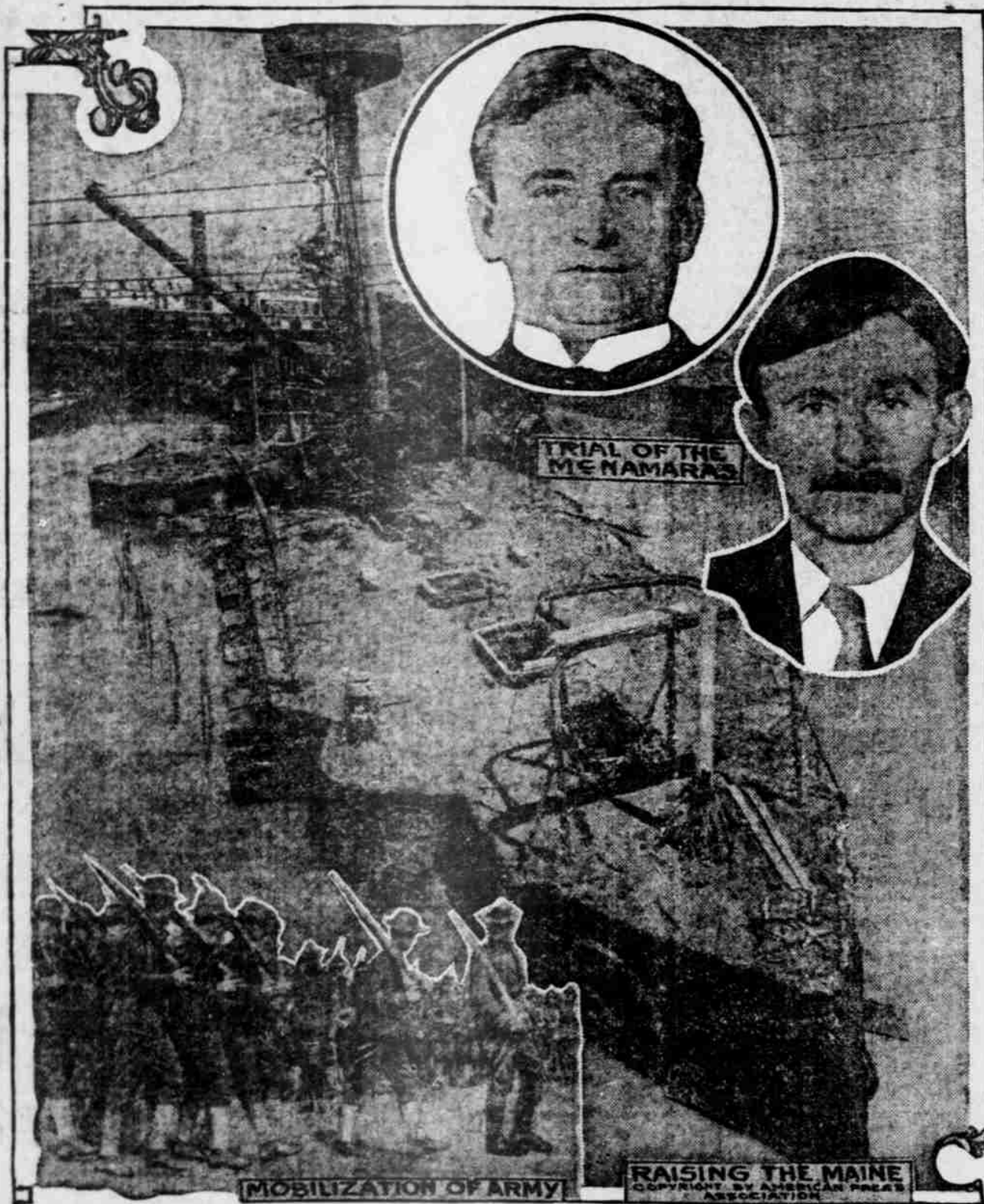
The railway strike in Great Britain threatened for a time to become the fiercest struggle between labor and capital ever witnessed in the United Kingdom. It was finally settled by the intervention of the government. Chancellor Lloyd-George presenting the plan of compromise.

### Two Royal Pageants.

The coronation of King George V was the most spectacular event of the sort ever beheld in London. Not satisfied with one pageant, the king and queen attended the Indian durbar in person, the first time the reigning monarch ever appeared at a durbar since the empire was proclaimed in British India.

Canada advanced her position in the empire, the Duke of Connaught, uncle of the king, becoming governor general and Andrew Bonar Law, a native of the Dominion, succeeding A. J. Balfour as Unionist leader in parliament.

Aviation successes in Europe during 1911 were almost as brilliant as in America. Among the chief events were the flight of Lieutenant Bagu, 125 miles over the Mediterranean, the carrying of eleven passengers in an aeroplane by Louis Berguet, the flight of Lieutenant Elier with a passenger from Berlin to Hamburg, 140 miles in three and a half hours; the journey of Pierre Prier from London to Paris without a stop, 230 miles in 236 minutes; the covering of 746 miles in one



THREE IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS AT HOME IN 1911.

failures, no overwhelming disasters. True, we have had two sessions of congress, but who can expect to escape all misfortunes?

The chief events of the year at home have been the passage of the reciprocity treaty and the resultant ice water thrown over us by Canada, the passage of the tariff revision bills and their veto by the president, the mobilization of a part of our army in Texas during the Mexican revolution, the supreme court decision dissolving the Standard Oil and tobacco trusts, the bringing of suits against the steel trust and criminal prosecution of the heads of the beef trust, the admission to statehood of New Mexico and Arizona, the signing of the arbitration treaties with France and Great Britain, the record breaking tour of President Taft, the adoption of the initiative, referendum, recall and woman suffrage by California, the assembling of the largest war fleet ever gathered in American waters, the flight of an aeroplane across the continent, the McNamara trial, the creation of three new American cardinals, the raising of the Maine and the finding that it was blown up from the outside, and the bicentennial of the first Bull Run and the opening of the civil war.

**The Defeat of Reciprocity.**  
The Canadian reciprocity agreement was completed and presented to congress early in the year. It removed the duties on many articles between the two countries and reduced them on others. Raw materials constituted the bulk of the free list, for which reason the agreement was opposed by a large section of American farmers. Despite the opposition from this and other sources the measure promptly passed the house of representatives, but was held up in the senate without action till the adjournment of the Sixty-first congress. President Taft almost immediately called a special session of the Sixty-second congress, and after months of debate the reciprocity agreement passed both bodies and became law so far as the United States could make it so.

All Canada the opponents of the

stitutional amendment being defeated by four votes in the senate during the Sixty-first congress, but passing both houses of the Sixty-second congress. An amendment providing for federal control of elections was inserted in the senate, however, and this was not agreed to by the house.

The first statehood bill was vetoed by President Taft because of the provision for recall of judges in the Arizona constitution. The measure was then amended by omitting this section, after which it became a law.

Among the interesting features of the extra session was the fact that the speaker did not select the standing committees, as in the past, but that this was left to the ways and means committee. For the first time in sixteen years the Democrats had control of the house and with the progressive Republicans mustered a majority in the senate. Champ Clark of Missouri was elected speaker and Oscar W. Underwood majority floor leader.

**Anti-trust Decision.**  
The regular session met on Dec. 4, but little was done before the holidays. The president adopted the novel method of sending in his annual message in sections, the first relating to the trusts and the second to foreign relations.

Trust investigations and court decisions were one of the features of the year. The supreme court ordered the Standard Oil company and the American Tobacco company to dissolve, interpreting the law by the famous "rule of reason." Congress investigated the sugar trust and the steel trust, and the government began suit against the last named. The criminal case against the Chicago packers started in the federal court. Other political events were the ratification of the new treaty with Japan, the decision to fortify the Panama canal, the Lorimer and Stephenson investigations in the senate, the resignation of Secretary of the Interior R. A. Ballinger and the appointment of Walter L. Fisher in his stead, the resignation of Secretary of War J. M. Dickinson and the appointment of

all the big university eleven in football. The American team defeated that from England in polo.

The famous McNamara trial was brought to a sudden close by the two brothers pleading guilty and being sentenced to prison, one for life and the

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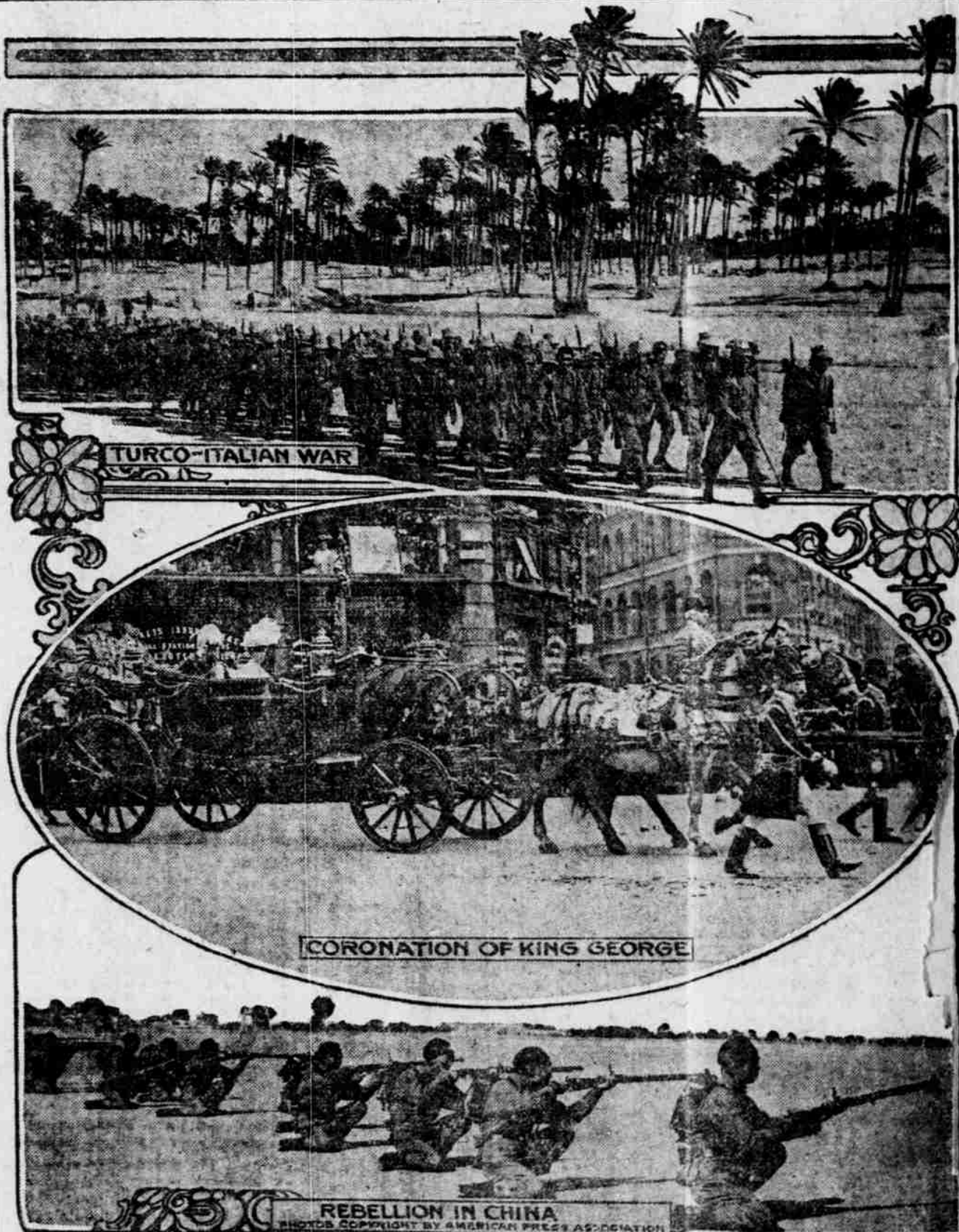
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THREE OF THE YEAR'S NOTABLE HAPPENINGS ABROAD.

and parliament. Yuan Shih Kai, who had been in practical banishment, was recalled and made premier.

### The Fall of Diaz.

The Mexican revolution had its actual inception in 1910, but did not attract general attention till January of 1911, when it made great headway in the state of Chihuahua. It spread rapidly, the revolutionary armies of both the south and the north winning important victories. The climax came on May 10 when the rebels captured Juarez. Eleven days later the peace agreement was signed and on May 27 President Diaz resigned, secretly leaving the country the next day. Francisco de la Barra, former ambassador at Washington, was elected provisional president, and on June 7, Francisco I. Madero, leader of the revolutionists, entered the City of Mexico in triumph.

A free election was held on Oct. 1, and Mr. Madero was unanimously chosen president. Fighting continued and General Bernardo Reyes, who was charged with fomenting the trouble, was arrested in Texas.

To most of the world the war between Italy and Turkey came as a surprise. The first known of it generally was the ultimatum of the Italian gov-

ernment further than to protect Mr. Shuster's life and property. In the meantime an agitation arose in America to abrogate the treaty with Russia because of her refusal to honor the passports of American Jews, Catholic priests and Protestant missionaries.

During the summer the chancelleries of Europe were stirred to a white heat of excitement by the news that a German warship had suddenly appeared at Agadir, Morocco. Happening as it did in the midst of the negotiations between Germany and France over Morocco, this was universally regarded as a warlike move. England was drawn into the affair as an ally of France and as the chief power in Africa, and a warning speech was delivered by Chancellor of the Exchequer Lloyd-George, which rendered the situation rather more tense than before. In the end France and Germany settled their differences, France gaining control of Morocco, but giving Germany a slice out of the French Congo. The aftermath of the affair was almost as exciting as the ray itself, speeches of those on the inside making it appear that the edge of a world conflict had been narrowly grazed.

A revolution broke out in Haiti during the year—not an unusual occur-

rence, by the way—resulting in flight of fifteen hours by Helles and the establishment of the first British aerial postal service. The chief tragedy abroad was the killing of the French war minister and the injury of the premier by a falling aeroplane.

In sports the great event was the swimming of the English channel for the first time. The feat was performed by William Burgess, Oxford, who won the annual boat race from Cambridge. Miss Dorothy Campbell, an American, gained the woman's golf championship of Great Britain, but H. H. Hilton, a British golf champion, turned the tables by winning the American championship.

One of the chief disasters of the year was the destruction of the French warship Liberté on Sept. 25. A fire in China was reported to have destroyed 100,000 lives. A \$25,000,000 fire destroyed a considerable part of Constantinople.

Among the distinguished foreign deaths of the year were Sir Francis Galton, English explorer; Sir Charles Dill, English statesman; General Piet Cronje of Boer war fame; Ern Crofts, English painter; Josef Israels, Dutch artist; Premier Stolypin of Russia; and Sir Robert Hart, W. Clark Russell, the novelist.